

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 08002 251622Z
ACTION ARA-14

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-----109135 260738Z /14
R 251140Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3597

UNCLAS CARACAS 8002

FOR ARA/AND

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AAUD VE CO
SUBJECT: INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION 5.1-5

REF: STATE 203346

1. 5.1-5. "EMBASSY CARACAS AND THE DEPARTMENT (ARA/MGT, WITH A/FBO APPROVAL AS NECESSARY) SHOULD ASSURE THAT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TEAM ARE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER RUSH, JUNE 1, 1978:

- A) CONSTRUCTION OF THE COVERED OUTSIDE HOLDING AREA;
- B) CONSTRUCTION OF THE SERPENTINE ARRANGEMENT WITHIN THE NIV UNIT;
- C) CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERVIEW COUNTER AND TRAVEL AGENT DEPOSITORIES; AND
- D) CONSTRUCTION OF A SEPARATE EXIT FROM THE EMBASSY COMPOUND FOR NIV APPLICANTS.

2. RESPONSE

CARACAS - A) CONSTRUCTION OF THE COVERED OUTSIDE HOLDING AREA. THIS RECOMMENDATION ENVISIONED AND ARRANGMENT WHEREBY VISA APPLICANTS WOULD BE CONTAINED IN A COVERED OUTSIDE AREA AS THEY AWAITED ENTRY INTO THE
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ANNEX BUILDING. HOWEVER, NUMBERING SYSTEM NOW IN USE HAS PROVED MOST EFFECTIVE IN MOVING APPLICANTS RATHER PROMPTLY FROM OUTER GATE INTO THE BUILDING. RATHER THAN UNDERTAKE THIS COSTLY MODIFICATION, EMBASSY PROPOSES THT AN ALUMINUM AWNING BE CONSTRUCTED OVER STAIRWAY LEADING INTO NIV SECTION. THIS WILL PROTECT APPLICANTS THAT OVERFLOW ONTO THE STAIRS DURING THE BUSY SUMMER MONTHS.

B) CONSTRUCTION OF THE SERPENTINE ARRANGEMENT WITHIN THE NIV UNIT. NUMBER SYSTEM NOTED ABOVE HAS CONSIDERABLY REDUCED TENDENCY TO BUNCH UP AT COUNTERS AS APPLICANTS PROCEED ONLY WHEN THEIR NUMBERS ARE CALLED. UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS EMBASSY FEELS SERPENTINE ARRANGEMENT TO BE A NEEDLESS EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS. SHOULD CONDITIONS CHANGE IN THE FUTURE, EMBASSY WOULD, AT THAT TIME, REQUEST FUNDS FOR MOBILE STANCHIONS (AT HALF OF THE COST OF SERPENTINE) WITH ROPES RATHER THAN FIXED SERPENTINE.

C) CONSTRUCTION OF INTERVIEW COUNTER AND TRAVEL AGENT DEPOSITORIES. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH THE RECOMMENDATION. LEXIGUARD WINDOW MATERIAL IS NOW ON HAND AND WE WILL PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION UPON RECEIPT OF \$11,000 IN SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING NOW BEING REQUESTED FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

D) CONSTRUCTION OF A SEPARATE EXIT FROM THE EMBASSY COMPOUND FOR NIV APPLICANTS. MR STUART KNOOP, A DEPARTMENT CONTRACTED ARCHITECT WHO VISITED CARACAS IN JULY, TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE GATE DESIGN FOR SECURITY REASONS. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT HE PLANNED TO COMMENT ON THIS IN HIS FINAL REPORT AND DISCUSS SAME WITH FBO REPRESENTATIVES. POST WISHES TO SUSPEND ACTION UNTIL UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IS RESOLVED.
CROWLEY

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NNN

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